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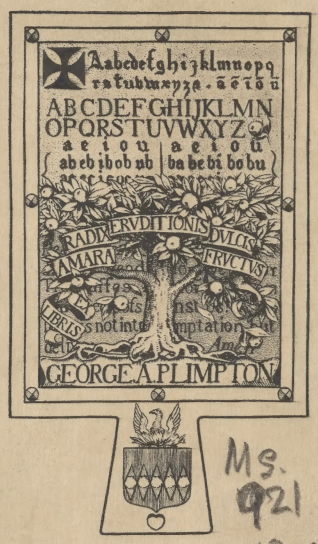
220 —— 266

220 continued



MS.
921
1820
vol. 6

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Harrison known

220 continued

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enemy

"a man wise in his own conceit, of whom there was no hope,"
could not, or would not comprehend; but it becomes an
indelible stain on the memory of the Ecclesiastics who support-
-ed him, that they should have [redacted]
insensible to the magnitude of those obligations which they
are expected, & accustomed to enforce from the pulpit. They
are [redacted] looked to, to do well by their counsel from the spiritual
rostrum, but to do better by their practice at all seasons. What
ingenuous man, after the case of John Harrison, can place that
unlimited confidence in the legislative pledge which it would
be desirable should appear as unshaken as the foundations of
this Island? Yet when a Mandarin of the third rank, a scien-
-tific pretender, whose motives, though remarkably suspicious,
were never enquired into, [redacted] Took his seat among them, it was found
that the distinct test directed by the 12th of Queen Ann, became
whatsoever the enemies of the Claimant chose to dictate; & they
paid no regard to his years, nor yet to circumstances which made
the place of their selection in the highest degree improper. And
why? — Does any man willingly acquiesce in his implacable
oppressor having the control of a momentous concern for his
interest? and in that light he regarded Lord Morton; with
whom the Astronomer Royal appeared to be [redacted] in the
best understanding; from the good effects of which he was
shamefully suffered to escape scot free for the injury done
to the public property he [redacted] had been commissioned, instead of John
Harrison, to remove from Red Lion Square. By the way, was not

[redacted] Mr. Harrison [redacted]

2

220 continued

Their representative

if we observe

enumerated

of circumstances which illustrate

—— The [redacted] unknown

the assurance of the Lunar corps above par, if they could, without any attempt to extenuate the misconduct of ~~themselves & their agent~~, direct order the Timekeepers to be tried by the same person who had recently given such flagrant proofs of his incompetency to handle machines of such curious mechanism? He was indeed a Commissioner, &, it is extremely probable, his own deputy. It may savour of common place, that personal partialities & party preferences often defeat the purpose of such ~~Legislative~~ institutions, but it is not often that the evidence is so tangible (as at Hamstead Hill) though ~~for which~~ for — which it would probably have remained, had it not formed a link in the chain ~~which~~ ~~ultimately elicited~~ the protestations, ~~& in this instance, to~~ ~~overrode~~ merit of George 3rd.

We now find two declarations on the minutes, from Messrs. Kendall & Harrison respectively; the former is thus —

"That he has made preparations for proceeding upon the Watch
" he has undertaken to construct on Mr. Harrison's principles; &
" that he shall be ready to go upon that work in about 3 weeks,
" when he desires Mr. Harrison's Timekeeper may be put into his
" hands. That he has been obliged to postpone his private business
" in order to make those preparations, & must decline every
" thing else, whilst he is employed in making the Watch. That
" there is no other way of keeping the exact proportions proposed
" by Mr. Harrison to be necessary than by having the said Time-
" keeper in his possession. That if the Timekeeper was kept by
" Mr. Harrison (though he might have recourse to it) he could not
" get the proportions in his mind, so as to be able to execute them.
" That he has not any objection to Mr. Harrison having recourse

220 continued

"accept to the Timekeeper whilst in his custody. That
"he has not expressed any doubts of being able to construct
"the Watch he has undertaken. That he will engage to
"make every particular part thereof superior to N. Harrison's, D. N. 153 □,
"but will not answer for the adjustment, the method whereof
"is precarious: & that he thinks he does not stand in
"need of any further instructions from N. Harrison."

An unexplained omission here, of particular special importance to the business arranged, is that N. Kendall had not been expected to commence his work before he should be furnished with an early impression of the plates from the drawings which, for that purpose, it was directed ( ) should be forwarded him as promptly as possible. It was highly material to the public, that the work this Watchmaker undertook for, should demonstrate its being practicable to construct other Timekeepers from those plates; that being the object of the publication, or what was the intention of it (except to indulge Dr. Maskelyne with a display he coveted?) That the work had come out is fully ascertained; for N. Mudge, at his examination (March 14.) is asked — "How far do you think the Drawings
"&c, now published, will enable other Workmen to make
"such Watches? Answer — Good Mechanics may in my opin-
"-ion make such Watches from them." — N. Kendall certainly had a copy; how & where then is the mystery (for it becomes such) that he makes no mention of these drawings? — Did he mistrust the correctness of the plates

To some gentlemen

because the superintendance of their experiency had been tak-
-ken from the only person fit for it, & given to the Astron-
-omer Royal, whose incompetency he knew, as he
had been present (having insisted on his right of being so) when
the Timekeeper was taken to pieces & explained. — Those
explanations are probably what Mr. Kendall means, when
he adverts, in his declaration, to "instructions from Mr.
Harrison"; there not having been any meeting between them
for that purpose. — The disposition shown at this Board
to accommodate the Claimant with the loan of the Timekeep-
had not circumstances then rendered it impossible, will not
escape observation, & may be conjectured to have arisen from
some facts which transpired out of doors, & gave great offence
to certain of his Majesty's liege subjects, who felt
were disposed
to take up the cudgels literally in behalf of a case of such
flagrant oppression. After the Manager had, as far as was
in his power nullified the act, the 12th. of Queen Anne. After
having superseded it by both his own bill, the least that could
have been expected (if his motives would bear enquiry) was
that he should, by every facility at his command, pro-
mote the ostensible purpose of the act to amend, ex-
-plain & alter, which principally required that two more
Timekeepers should be made & tried, to entitle the Claim-
-ant to be paid the second moiety of the reward.
It might have been supposed a peer of chivalrous descent,
after having passed the Rubicon in this manner, would have
found his honour concerned to mitigate the hardship of the

Mr. Read — that he

"doubts & difficulties" he had discovered, which had occurred to no one in forty years before — had escaped the observation of the Attorney & Solicitor General, & to all appearance would never have been heard of, had he not found himself affronted by what passed under the Act the 3. third George 3. If the construction which all parties had till then put on the original Act was not worth a rope and, not a few would have suggested that common honesty, as well as his honour, required that he should enable the Claimant to conform, as speedily as might be, to the provisions of the substitute he had provided for the 12.th of Queen Ann. but to the calls of either sentiment, this person, a plebeian by nature, though an aristocrat by birth, appeared wholly insensible. However when, as is likely, the reproach which got abroad grew too loud, the noble Lord, or his party by his direction, affects to relax in his injurious pertinacity, & lo! it is found at the same juncture (who questions his lordships second sight?) that it is indispensably [redacted] necessary the Timekeeper should go to W.m Kendal should have those facilities so long refused to the superior Claimant; & refused too, be it observed, while that Watchmaker had no occasion for it; viz. from October 28.th 1765 to May 2.d 1767, being 18 months; by which time, had it not been for this studied & dishonest impediment thrown in his way, the two Timekeepers that were demanded from him would probably have been verging fast towards their completion! — The superior claimant, we would repeat [redacted]

(and their supreme Author.) Was it not sufficient that
They had grubbed up the foundation of the Claimants
labours, That they should treat his early rising & late
resting so many years, as they might have done a poetic fic-
-tion, because James, Earl of Morton, told them a pretended
story, about his having a majority whilom; but they must like-
-wise also render the fabricated substitute he provided for the 12
of Queen Anne a Dray chair which the sufferer could never have
unlocked, had not Parliament, ashamed of its injustice, at length
-stablished his claim; ~~[illegible]~~
~~the personal objection that disgraced their vote,~~
~~they should have remembered~~ ~~[illegible]~~
~~world, that they~~ which had been thrown into abeyance to gra-
-tify the personal & sinister motives of the Earl of Morton; as
fully appeared from by his obstructing all he could the operation
of his own bill. If justice was not erased in the vocabulary of
this servant & his party they would have known they had
no right to

to the Commissioners of Longitude, Lay or clerical; & that a voice of thunder was wanting to shake them to the bones for such an offence against the immutable principles of equity [redacted] had no right to contract with Larcum Kendall or any other workman, if thereby they obstructed the Claimant in attaining the remaining moiety of his recompence, according to their own definition of the requisites for it.

The declaration of the junior Harrison, coming now, was — "That it will be necessary his father should have the Timekeeper in his hands for six months; by which means he shall be able to complete two others in two years: that it will require one year longer if he has it not in his hands. That he does not chuse to give security different for the safe custody and delivery of the said Timekeeper, but will give the same as others, in whose custody keeping it has been, or may be. That exclusive of the remainder of the reward, viz. £10,000. he expects to be paid for the two Timekeepers (if they answer upon Trial, & are to become the property of the public) the same price as will be paid him by others, who have bespoke those machines of him. That before he gives any further instructions to other workmen, his Father expects to have the second moiety of the reward; after the receipt of which, he will be upon oath to do all in his power to instruct other people, & set it into the world: but that if he has not the Timekeeper delivered up to him, to work by, he cannot undertake to the Board to make any more watches, but will pursue his own course."

attempted vouchsafed; ~~[illegible]~~

his

damp & discourage the enterprizing spirit of
public motives were the stale pretences for this injus-
-tice to the community, as well as the individual.

estimated 110

From this document, to which no reply answer was ~~by the wrong headed Director of this proceeding~~ appeared, that had the Chronometer had the Timekeeper only six months out of the eighteen — a third part of the time it was so Dishonourably refused; it would have sufficiently enabled him to conform to the Act which had superseded the one, the solace of labours through so many revolving seasons. The reason he was ~~unwilling~~ so backward to recommence his labours is here distinctly stated, viz: that without having the loan of the Timekeeper, the projected work would occupy him three years instead of Two: & this was said in his seventy fourth year. — It were desirable, for the honour of human nature, that this oppressive inhumanity could be palliated; & yet no trace can be found to that effect, in any tract of the period; while at this distant time it appears in all its deformity, aggravated by the consideration, that while the P. R. S. did every thing in his power to suppress, instead of promoting the labours of this superior genius.

There has been repeated occasion to remark in these transactions, that the nobleman who is so conspicuous, either constitutionally, or from education & habit, would appropriate the labour of others without any remuneration if he could. None in his resolutions under the third George 3. he made no provision for an outlay that might have been calculated at £900; & when he embodied the 5. & the 6th of them in his own bill, notwithstanding the uncertainty respecting the vested right to any machine, ~~invented by which the Lon~~

instrument, or tangible apparatus, by which the Lo

gitude might be discovered, was an obvious defect in the ori-ginal Act, yet, professing to amend, explain & alter, that measure, he left this disadvantage as he found it. Nor can it be doubted, had the two Timekeepers been made, & tried satisfactorily, he would have put the same construction on what he had purposely left uncertain, as he had before done on the 12th. of Queen Anne. To guard against this char-acteristic meanness, the Claimant, who did not think himself called on to deduct the value of these machines from the remainder of the reward, if ever he got it, is here explicit on the point. In the same spirit he states distinct-ly, under what circumstances, & no other, he will further instruct workmen.

The minutes of the succeeding Board (May 2d. 1767) commence with a question put to Mr. Kendal, which could answer little other purpose than to vindicate the clearness of mechanics, either of the P. R. S. or the Astronomer Royal, or both. It forms a striking contrast with the magnitude of several particulars, which it is dis-covered by the Journals, were wholly omitted in their recorded proceedings: especially the proposal (April 26th. 1766) for a manufactory of Timekeepers, which the only man that perfectly understood the subject declared was the sole method by which they could be brought into use, at prices sufficiently reduced. But as it suppos-ed he knew better than the Earl of Morton, who knew every thing (& hated him to boot) no more would have been

acquainted with the

The

~~Mons. d'Arcenson relative magnitude, Lord Morton, &~~
heard of it, had not the present research led to the conclusion that the public were not under much obligation to his lordships abilities, & none at all to his candour.

"M. Kendal, who was attending, was called in, & asked "if he should want M. Harrison's callipers to work by?" He an- "swered in the negative." — The Author is not aware of the particularity of the callipers in reference, if indeed they had any; but supposing otherwise, & that the answer had been in the interrogated had answered in the affirmative, were they prepared to strip the Claimant of an instrument necessary to his purpose?

"He was then asked if he thought the Watch might be "removed, from Greenwich to London, as well in the state of going, "as if it was at rest? He said he thought the latter most advi- "-sable, & then withdrew." — It does not require much ac- -quaintance with mechanics to know that the latter was correct; but in case of any doubts, it is evident the Inventor was the fittest person to be asked. This enquiry, without being so intended, carries us back again to the re- -moval of the three Machines; for when D^r. Maskelyne ap- -peared in Red Lion Square, they were all in motion, in a correct state, as was certified by himself, in its place. The first attempt (that had been sent to Lisbon) was effectually stopped, by being left fast between the (self deputed) agent of the Commissioners, & the blacksmith whom he sent for to his assistance, instead of having one or more experienced Clockmakers with him. But there is no evidence that the precaution was

~~subscribing the counsel of a member of the same~~
~~profession only from the Admiralty to preside~~
~~with, though they were a court of the safe side,~~
~~and carefully regarded it as having great~~
~~[illegible] of information in Lord Morton~~
~~individual judgment, that they were bound~~
~~in the~~

Board of unreasonable vexatious magistrate, Lord Mayor, &c

taken to stop the other two Machines, before they were placed on the vehicle in which they were jolted to Greenwich. On the contrary the presumption, & the unreasonable wrath manifested by the Astronomer Royal, leads to the inference, that he paid no regard to his duty, if he knew it. But though the Inner party stuck to each other like flies in syrups, it may be justly suspected, that neither the Doctor, nor his Patron, could entirely suppress complaints among the seafaring Gentlemen, & the civilians, against the injury to this public property: which seem to have slipped out when Mr. Kendall was asked as above.

Before continuing these extracts, from the minutes of this date, if a retrospective glance be directed to the period (25th. March 1761) when William Harrison having proceeded by sea to Portsmouth with the third Machine, was to be joined there by his Father with the fourth, & afterwards successful Time-keeper, it should be observed, that this piece of a watch like form, about 6 inches in diameter, & contained with cushions in a box, scarcely 10 inches square, with a drawer handle to the lid, would, when run down, have been carried by him on his lap in the stage coach: without any apprehension of detriment thereby. At a subsequent period, a Time-keeper, constructed by Mr. Thomas Mudge, of the same form & size, or nearly such, was either by Count Bruhl, or his astronomer, Professor Zach, borne 2,000 miles by sea & land without injury. The elaborate provisions therefore, which may be remarked in the ensuing directions,

respecting the removal of a machine of the same size & description only from the Admiralty to Greenwich, to London
though they were an error on the safe side, may be safely regarded either as showing a lamentable deficiency of information in ~~two men who both~~ had Lord Morton & his sidereal adjunct, or that they were bewildered in

-er; if he could: as the Indian of North America will

~~Troops of unknown relative magnitude, Lord Morton, & his~~
~~several adjuncts, have evidently embodied in~~ the dense pe-
numbra with which they often mystified themselves as well
as their colleagues. For if these manifold precautions, which
we do not undervalue, were advisable when the Timekeeper
was to be taken to pieces, they were a hundredfold more cogent
when it was removed from the Admiralty to Hampstead Hill,
to be taken to pieces, as it happened, metaphorically, & re-
ported defunct. Where is the recorded account then, attesting that
due care was taken, so indispensably necessary, on their own
shewing? Were Messrs. Kendal & Mudge desired to attend on that
occasion, & who were the Gentlemen appointed to meet them? Did
the former inspect the state of the Timekeeper, both before
the party moved from the Admiralty, & after their arrival at
the [redacted] Observatory, where it was to be consigned to the
care of — of the Astronomer Royal; who though he had been
so sanguine at Barbados, had nothing satisfactory to show
what he had done by the Lunar method, either in the run to,
or the return from that Island. Hence, consonant to human
infirmity, it might have been anticipated he would derive
a consolation from demolishing the reputation of the Timekeep-
er, if he could ~~as the~~ wreak his vengeance on some missile,
by which he is wounded. — But we return to the Transit
through the Pool, &, in this instance, the praiseworthy caution
used with the Timekeeper, which however must have been car-
ried by hand, before it was embarked, & again after being land-
ed. We said, it was very well; but we ask, ~~would it not have~~

have not these precautionary forms the appearance
of concealing

is [illegible] given

repeat it
as we have already said, was

when a common Thames skiff would have sufficed for the Gentlemen engaged in the business, ~~for the appearance of~~ ~~evading~~ more reasons than it was convenient should meet the eye: — a remark which might not have occurred had not the conduct of the Earl of Morton rendered it obligatory to distrust his manœuvres.

"The Board then came to the following Resolutions, with respect to the removal of the Watch & depositing it in the hands of Mr. Kendall, viz: — That the same be conveyed by water to London, in the barge belonging to the Royal Hospital at Greenwich, with the first convenient opportunity. That the revd Nevil Maskelyne, Captain Smith of the said Hospital, & Mr. Ibbetson, Secretary to this Board, do attend the removal of the said Watch from the Royal Observatory to Mr. Kendall's [redacted] house, & see & certify to its being delivered into his custody. — That Mr. Kendall do attend at the Observatory, & in the presence of those Gentlemen, inspect into the state of the Watch immediately preceding its removal, & certify the same so far as he shall be able from such inspection; that he do the like on its arrival at his house, & that he then give a proper receipt for the said Watch on the back of the articles of agreement with the Board. — That Mr. Mudge be desired to attend Mr. Kendall at a convenient time to be settled between them, to see the said Watch taken to pieces, & inspect into the state of it."

Above a page another page of additional directions [redacted], which we omit; their purport being only to give more precise effect to the preceding forms, and — all this we say is very well; for if it may be thought to overdo it, yet that, [redacted] an error on the safe side. But here a consideration occurs, which

which usually brings to mind the exclamation of Periwinkle in the comedy — "Oh, M^r. Sackbut, Don't name the "Devil, which perhaps he may be at your elbow". Would it not have

would

been much better, if a portion of the same care had been extended to the removal of the three Machines? They would not then have been, as they are at this day, curious specimens of "the first essays for the discovery of the Longitude" & a reproachful moments, especially to foreigners, of the disgraceful treatment they received from those appointed for their preservation. — Where were Captain Smith, & Mr. Robertson, at that time? and, above all, where was the Hospital barge? which might indeed have been of most essential service for the conveyance of Timekeepers of such bulk, contra distinguished from that in the form of a watch, as these were. And if persons having that experience in mechanics which D. Maskelyne supplied by self-sufficiency, had been engaged to attend & verify the safe transmission of these works to their destined quarters, it have superseded the awkward expedient that seems resorted to by this over-acted part — "the pomp & circumstance" with the small box described, to mollify some soreness at the Board (Sir John Dent in particular could not be talked into a good opinion of such doings;) but it could not supply the rectitude of the course called for, which required that the Astronomer Royal, having no business to undertake what he was evidently so unequal to, without calling in proper assistance, should have been held amenable to the public out of his own pocket for the injury he had done. If the Doctor boggled at the expensiveness of his knowledge of mechanics, his patron might consistently enough have advised him to borrow of Professor Long, or any other of his friends. — the com-

in the state described

to part of the counsel given John Harrison in a difficulty entirely of his Lordship's creating; whose purse however did not seem accessible on that occasion: whether the strings would have been more relaxed on this, is a question we do not undertake for; but — we add lastly respecting these Machines unfortunate by falling into such improper hands, that the injury they incurred contributed its share to the neglect, which the personal enemies of this man of genius never contemplated. He practically felt the force of a sentiment he had never read.

Envy will merit like its shade pursue,
And, like the shadow, proves the substance true.

But his greatest Sovereign was destined in due course to lead him by the hand, & dissipate that malignant horizon, through which "hope deferred, maketh the heart sick."

In his visits to Greenwich, when parties were formed by their Majesties for that purpose (we are not aware he ever went there otherwise than in company) the King had seen these curious specimens of the talents & industry of John Harrison, & would immediately recollect they had been honoured with the medal of the Royal Society, on the recommendation of that eminent Philosopher Sir Hans Sloane; that he had himself, in consequence, desired to see & converse with so uncommon a subject, as their Inventor; & though he knew what belonged to his station better than to quarrel out of season with the same story, & battling explanation, of this Commissioner of Longitude (& of Latitude) who had found himself the unen-

redounded materially to the discredit of these public functionaries, & would not fail to bring on ~~their~~ the Resp.

of the latter date

to Boston

as well as the unsteady Needle or which the mariners observations fluctuate. — In close connexion with the

-vicable Task to make the worse appear the better reason, yet
when subsequent events brought the whole case of the Claimant
under his cognizance, the affair certainly ~~brought to these sub-~~
~~-lic functionaries, & especially to~~ their agent, an overmeasure
of the royal contempt.

12th. As suspension of the meetings of the Commission of
Longitude follows, from May 2nd 1767 to January 13th 1770. As that
~~of the last date~~ was confined to arrangements for the examination
of the Timekeeper Mr. Kendall had contracted for, & now com-
-pleted, we pass on to the next Board, 3rd March ensuing; The
Minutes of which commence thus. — "Resolved: that applic-
"-cation be made to Parliament for £5,000 more to enable
"this Board to give further rewards for improving the Lu-
"-nar Tables; & for other Discoveries & improvements useful
"to Navigation." — This may be a proper place to observe,
that it was common for our Mechanician to form a comparison
between the extreme difficulty he found in obtaining justice,
and (might it not be said to be in the usual course of things?)
that spirit of prescription in favour of applications to reward
either real, or supposed improvement, in this method of finding
the Longitude at sea (or at land:) defective as it is, he might
have added, & for ever must remain. unless the Almighty were
to grant another satellite to our planet ~~& the satellite~~, & modify
certain Atmospheric obstructions, ~~I also enquire with the~~
subject, the junior Mudge, when he wrote in Defence of his
Father, about the year 1792 ~~40 years ago~~, having made researches in
point, states that £25,000 & all the patronage connected

The noblemen, his retinue

with it had passed through the hands of Dr. Maskelyne for purposes connected with a plan which always insures a majority at Oxford & Cambridge, and — "well it may," observes some jocose perpetrator; "would you have a man "quarrel with his bread & butter, or what he may think "equivalent to it? Time was when the mason recommended "stone; the carpenter preferred timber, & the currier found "that leather was the best material for the projected for "-tifications."

In continuation of the late extract, it is — "Resolved: "that in case a bill shall be ordered to be brought in for "that purpose, that the House be moved for a clause to be "inserted therein, for limiting a time for Mr. John Harri "-son to produce other Timekeepers; as required by the "6th. of his present Majesty, to entitle him to the remaining "moiety of the great reward directed to be paid by the 12. of "Queen Anne, & that Mr. Harrison have notice thereof." — Upon this motion would not well be carried further; the sacred page says it "will make a wise man mad," & this might have been verified here; when it is considered that, had it not been for their own gross misconduct, in pertinaciously refusing him the room of the Timekeeper, to gratify the mean spirit of his malicious enemy, the two others they proposed, in this way, to compel him to expedite, would ere now have been completed; & in progress of trial (if the mode of it was settled.) So that after those promises, to turn on him in this manner, as if he had been culpably neglectful, & wanted properly admonishing; to attempt to

-ent in ~~practical mech~~ chronometrical mechanics: but this will not lessen the odium which their principal, prime Director & Factotum, was incurring for himself, if it should one day be asked — what were the causes which that led to the royal interference.

been nominated at this last meeting,

affix a stigma on his presumed tardiness, in the eyes of the nation, had a brutality in it which the wit of man of man cannot extenuate; unless by the consideration, which we hope was nearest the truth, that not one of them knew any thing about the matter. They were totally defici-
~~ent in practical mechanics, & it was the ill-fortune of~~
~~John Harrison to be occupied in this measure by men to~~
~~incompetent to decide on his merits.~~ — If the commissioners were such by virtue of the offices they held, the tenancy of which was fluctuating, it was impossible for a new member, if he relied on their official minutes, to understand the real bearing of the present question; as in the instance of Sir Fletcher Norton, who had now succeeded Sir John Cust; but we should recollect that, like a corporation aggregate, they were responsible for the acts of their predecessors. Even were it otherwise, yet 7 out of 10 were not ashamed to sit at this Board, who had repeatedly witnessed the heartless refusal, by Lord Morton, of the Admiralty's ~~[illegible]~~ renewed applications for the use of the Timekeeper.

The remainder of the minutes, 3. March, is occupied with the substance of a report, by the five persons who had ~~[illegible]~~ to inspect Mr. Kendall's work, & give their opinions thereon; which were unanimously in favour of the care & skill shown in the copy he had made of the Timekeeper <u>entrusted to him</u>. William Harrison, who had also attended the examination, was stiled by the P. R. S. / James West esquire, who

easily remarked

-ent, towards whom some of them evinced little scarcely less than an avowed rivalry, yet they made him sensible they could & would, encourage, or crush him, as they pleased!

It illustrates, indeed, an axiom almost as old as the world — the danger of entrusting any set of men, & most of all, the personal opponents of a man of genius with arbitra-ry power.

Such or The memory of those who

had succeeded Lord Morton) to have candidly declared his satisfaction therewith; & ever to have acknowledged the work to be in some respects superior to his father's. In consequence, The engagement being held to be completed, directions were given that Mr. Kendall should receive the moiety due under his contract, being £225; whereunto the Commissioners taking into consideration the extra Trouble he had incurred were pleased to add £50 more, making up 500 on the whole. This was as it should be, but leaves an unhappy inference — a question, at this remote day, extremely in want of an answer — Whence arose the ~~surprising~~ remote disparity that may be ~~remarked~~, ~~Twixt~~ in the demeanour of the Commissioners towards the watchmaker they employed, & their treatment of the claimant, ~~so long engaged under an implied contract with the state?~~ — Had a different issue attended Mr. Kendall's affair, had he been injured, or aggrieved, in any shape, & his solicitor thought he could make out a case, he might have brought his action at law. — If this furnishes a solution of the difficulty, it likewise reflects an indelible ~~reproach on those who~~ could convert a power, controllable only by Parliament, to purposes analogous to what might have been expected from the caprice of a Barbary despot.

There is no mention of any proposal under this date being handed, by the Secretary, to Mr. Kendall, which yet appears to have been the case; The minutes of the ensuing Board, 26th May, being chiefly occupied with his answer thereto; & as this document is of uncommon interest, though unfavourable to the Timekeeper

(to which yet that of M. Mudge, exclusive of the sentiments of the Inventor himself was decidedly opposed) the Author conforms to his

(not

-er as far as Mr. Kendall's opinion goes, the Author conforms to Duty in giving it, as follows. — "Upon considering the Proposals made to me by the Board at their last meeting, with regard to my instructing Workmen to make the several parts of Mr. Harrison's Watch, & granting me a reward for so doing; there appears to me so many difficulties attending such an undertaking, that should I engage in it, I am not assured in my own mind, I shall be able to do the Public any service. I therefore should think it unjust to take a reward of the Board, unless I knew I could fulfil the intentions for which the reward was given.

"As I apprehend the Board would expect, if the above proposals were carried into execution, that a Watch might in a short time be made for a reasonable price; in that case I believe the Board would be disappointed in their expectations. For though the method proposed by them might be the means of answering the end in some degree, yet it can never answer it so effectually as to make the Watch become of public utility. For unless a reduction of the expensive parts of it can be effected; & some method contrived to facilitate the adjusting of it, the Watch would still come to so high a price as to put it far out of the reach of purchase for general use; as I am of opinion it would be many years, if ever, before a Watch, of the same kind with that of Mr. Harrison, could be afforded for £200.

Mr. Kendall's signature being attached,

The minutes continue

"The Board having taken the same into consideration & being desirous of trying whether Watch machines, to keep true time at Sea, cannot be made in a much less expensive manner than

Lord Morton had died in the interim, but the deprecated

"with all Mr. Harrison's improvements; & having discoursed with
"the said Mr. Kendall thereupon. —
"Resolved — To try the experiment; & Mr. Kendall be-
"-ing willing to undertake it, was engaged with, to make a new
"Watch machine; leaving out such expensive parts, & making
"such other alterations from that made by Mr. Harrison, as he
"shall judge necessary, in order to reduce the price: in hopes by that
"means to make such Watch machines come within the reach of pur-
"chase for general use. — The Board understanding that Mr. Harri-
"-son had lately declared that he was making other Watch machines,
"or Timekeepers, one of which was in great forwardness, & that he
"intended to attend this Board to represent the same, & to give in pro-
"-posals for instructing workmen; but neither he or his Son (not-
"withstanding he had notice from the Secretary of the Board's meeting)
"having attended this day; owing as was stated to illness in their family.
— "Resolved — That the said Mr. Harrison have timely notice
"given him of the next meeting of this Board, & that he be desired
"to attend himself at that time, or send his Son, if he has
"any such representations to make, or proposals to offer."

The baneful consequences of Lord Sandwich's unqualified
control of the counsels of the Commission become manifest here;
since the commencement of this tract shows that proposals
had been distinctly made to Mr. Kendall, for the instruction of
workmen &c: which it thus appears was one of the objects of the
application to Parliament for £5000 more, to be placed at their
disposal, for general purposes. 70 / 345 April 25. 1766 The Claimant
presented, & attempted in vain to draw attention to a plan with

14th 1767 / Brough

The suppressed letter of May 24th 1766

self-important

the same object; & while the details of the present overture are not given, there is reason to believe they were the same, in substance at least, with his suggestions, which by direction of the pertinacious & obtrusive character who swayed their councils were rejected in insulting terms.

The opinion of the Chairman, John Harrison, ~~expressed in general terms~~, as to overcoming the difficulties contemplated, could they have been brought to pay any attention to it 4 years before, & not to have found themselves affronted by this & other information, as Sir John Cust said they would be, was quite at variance with Mr. Kendall's; whose contempory, Mr. Thomas Mudge, of equal skill, as far as his sentiments could be gathered from his examination (March 11th) not directly bearing on the point, favoured those of the Inventor, respecting the feasibility of constructing the Timekeepers in sufficient numbers & inclusively, at an attainable price. The passage in ~~the suppressed letter of April 26th~~ when given with the context, shows the unpardonable error of the Commissioners in assigning their understandings to the evil genius of his country, as we may call their concealed guide. — To p. 300 A. ~~after ages will hardly believe that a mechanical Invention & one that allow of great improvement in its construction should be taken from the Man that invented it, & given to another to gather to pursue.~~" ~~They were not considerate enough to retrace their steps, but without acknowledging the mischief done, instead of sending Lord Morton (his personal enemy) to demand two Timekeepers from him, consequents of the unsuccessful one, which got he was tempted & circumstanced so cruelly, by being deprived the loss of this, all his energies would have directed to~~

After the first of the three Machines, so called to distinguish them, had been tried in the run from Lisbon, with a very favourable result; on a suggestion of the Officers, that its size made it rather cumbersome on shipboard, he set himself to construct a second, & afterwards a third, each of these being an improvement on the preceding one; from whence it seems fair to conclude, by analogy, that had his inventive faculties been called into action, instead of being wasted in copying his former work, he could & would have overcome the difficulties Mr. Kendall states; provided the Timekeeper had been before him. But the noblemen, to whose conduct so much disgrace attaches in these proceedings, not only obliterated this prospect for the public, but even rendered his own bill a dead letter. In

The renewed agreement with Mr. Kendal for an improved & cheaper to £301 □ to apply himself

simplifying the construction, reducing the expensiveness of it & affording them the chance of a reasonable price

[illegible] of the Commissioners released from the imputation [illegible] that contained that [illegible] of the transaction, treat with Mr Kendall for a modification of the Timekeeper at a reduced price, & listen with interest from £301 0 a rumour which had reached them that Jno Harrison had "proposals to give in, for instructing workmen." But they forgot they were inverting the order of things, since at his time of life, a proposition in 1770 could not be viewed in the same light in which it might have been regarded four years before. Besides their aggravated refusal of the loan of the Timekeeper, while it was kept locked up, for which it does not appear any motion was made to conciliate him, though it had thrown his works back more than half that interval, was enough to decide him not under present circumstances to apply himself to the instruction of workmen, or to the establishing a manufactory of Timekeepers, conformably to his memorial in 1766: unless they paid him the second moiety of the reward due under the 12th of Queen Anne, which they could at any time by applying to Parliament, had that been necessary to release them from the operation of Lord Morton's bill, which from the tenor of their present resolutions, they might have begun to discover was a personal affair they had reason to be ashamed of. They forgot an in-

-consistency in the novel expectations recorded on their minutes, for to continue to require two more copies of the Timekeeper, & to suppose he could also devote himself to the instruction of workmen, became no other gentlemen, but would have been anticipated from the Earl of Morton, who paid not the smallest regard to the claims of age, & their concomitant, the desire of ease.

"At the next meeting of the Commissioners, November 17. in the same year, a brief minute informs us, that "W. Harrison's "Son, who was attending in consequence of the notice sent to his "Father, was called in; & acquainted the Board that his Father is "making another Timepiece, which is finished all but the adjust-"-ment, & will be complete before the rising of Parliament: "but that he had not any proposals to offer." — Above a twelve-month is now unrecorded; & on the 28th. November, 1771, it is ordered that the Watch, made by W. Kendal, a copy of the Timekeeper, should be sent out in one of the Sloops (the Resolution & Discovery) then fitting for Captain Cooke's second voyage. The minutes continue — "W. Harrison junr. who was attending, was called in, & the Board "understanding from him that his Father has a Watch machine, or "Timekeeper, near ready, which may be completed by the time the "above sloops are to sail, he was told that the said Watch machine, "or Timekeeper, should be sent out in one of those sloops, in order "that a Trial may be made thereof, if his Father thinks proper: "which offer the said W. Harrison's Son declined, saying that "the Trial would take up too much time."

To (± 30) ±

~~Lord Morton seems to have left Edinburgh [illegible] to the~~
~~Lunar party here, for he could not at the age of 78 be expected to~~
~~survive in a Trial which might occupy three or four years, and to~~

2d Alteration? From p 302 W

On The 14th. of December, "Lord Sandwich communicate
"to the Board a letter dated The 12th. inst. which his Lordship had
"recived from Mr. William Harrison, setting forth the hardships
"which he conceives he has met with; desiring that the Watch
"machine made by his Father, & now in possession of The
"Board, may be sent out in one of The ships sitting for a voyage to
"remote parts instead of the copy thereof, made by Mr. Kendall,
"& offering, upon having a reasonable opportunity of examining
"the latter, to rest his claim to the remainder of the reward
"upon the performance of it, & a new one, which he (the said Mr.
"Harrison) has made since, &, that done to submit to any mode
"of Trial by men not already proved partial, which shall be
"definite in its nature, conclusive as to the reward in case of succ-
-ess, & in any degree near the limitation of the Act of Queen Anne in
"point of duration & exactness; &, at the same time, proposing a new
"mode of trial. — The said letter & proposal having been taken into
"consideration, Mr. Harrison's Son (who was attending) was sent for in,
"& told — That the Board do not think fit that the Watch machine,
"or Timekeeper, made by his Father, & now in their
"possession, shall be sent out of the kingdom; & that they do not
"see any reason to alter their resolution with respect to the plan which
"they have already settled, & communicated to him for the future
"Trial of his Timekeepers. He then withdrew."

□ 1/55 The objection to "men already proved partial" will be sufficiently illustrated in the Appendix; & The Board persisting, we conclude, in directing the trial to be at Mamstead Hill, since in his idea was placing him in the power of his partial-ity (in which light it was very excusable he should view the

242 under the individual who either through ignorance or revenge

Insert at ▭ when they were ~~so~~ pointedly opposed in politics.++

~~Note~~ Note at ++ Horne Tooke was at that time a noted Tory in his party opinions.

Chap. 13th Chap.

after suitable ~~after mature~~ reflection ~~to decide on not~~

not must

a Lords by birth, his Maj

Sister of John

-nomy, having brought on an intimacy ~~with him~~;

-stood him, & who knowing the sentiments his Majesty expressed in conversation on a subject in which he took uncommon interest, could safely predict the

or ~~otherwise~~

had so much injured his machines) put a fi-
-nal stop to all attempts to compromise the subject with the
Commissioners. But his being thus set adrift had a consequen-
which neither the Earl of Sandwich, nor D^r. Maskelyne, who now
controled the whole proceedings, could contemplate & — gave oc-
-casion for "a Trait in the Character of George 3^d." which
the Author of these Memoirs assumes he has not lived in vain,
if he can transmit to posterity.

13 All prospect of any further reliance on a Commission
of Longitude, presided at, & controlled, by Two individuals at en-
-mity with the Claimant, being thus extinguished; the general &
fair report which their Sovereign had acquired of a high sense
of equity, may be conceived to have led the Father & Son
an application to that quarter in their despondig situa
-tion. John Harrison being wholly domestic, was probably
acquainted with D^r. Demainbray,
ciety's astronomer at Richmond; a gentleman of scientific abili-
-ties, but chiefly known at present by his marriage with the
Horne Tooke having exposed him to some illiberal sha
-fts from the popular demagogue, Wilkes. A similarity of
pursuits, William Harrison being no mean proficient in astro
with the Doctor, who would be
disposed to check the oppressive conduct of his opponent at Flam
result, were a state
-ment of John Harrison's case to be addressed to him, in such a
form, that he could with the gracious permission, read,
of his Master, to
submit it to him; a letter

[redacted] accordingly, adapted to explain the unmerited & unsurmountable difficulties, the dilemma into which the Applicant had got by acting [redacted]

They [redacted] seem [redacted] to have risked in giving their Plea, by the strong language applied to the conduct of the Commissioners of Longitude, but the treatment they complained of, did not require much precaution to expose [redacted]

[redacted]. The party [redacted] business in which the proceedings at their Boards had

[redacted] ing on the famous act of Parliament, so often quoted, was transmitted to the Doctor +++

+++ It is given as N 2 in the Appendix.

[redacted]

[redacted] apartment [redacted]

present at their conferences

from □ 525

two or three [redacted]

; the immediate consequence of which was that the King sent for the junior Harrison to Windsor, & interrogated him closely on this resuscitated case of his Father.

wholly deviated from the time when it was probable the candidate would achieve the recovery sought ++528 ~~, & not be better illustrated at this period in Science~~ than by the Commissioners persisting in requiring the Claimant to submit his newly completed Timekeeper, in the first instance, to a ten months trial under the management of Mr. Maskelyne, ~~& it was during the~~ ~~whole of~~ which they were thus indulging with an opportunity to arrange the challenge to produce his lunar observations at sea, which notwithstanding his proscriptions at Barbados he was unable to accept. This the ~~unprincipled~~ stupid tyrant might, & the pretence of attaching no importance to refusals of the loan of the Timekeeper, by excluding them from the minutes, could influence no one outside of the Board where this oppression, so remarkably disgraceful towards a man of his years, was sanctioned, & least of all George 3. who understood the subject, & whose resentment might have been anticipated, had he been with closed doors. ◊529

Among the printed facts which this remarkable affair gave occasion for, on the part of the Claimant, was one published years before the date of the letter to D. Demainbray, & in the argument the following passage occurs. "This was all the answer "he could ever obtain upon these points, while the late President of "the Royal Society, who had great influence at the Board of Lon-

244 Insert at ‡ their deceased, but who seemed to have

~~for the words from their presence to the time~~
~~duty — instantly to be given as note~~ left the Prophet's

mantle to the party at the Board jealous of the Mechanics,

& consequently having no more right to interfere in the con-
-cerns of the Board than any other person outside the door
of their apartment. It is impossible to divest such intermeddling

Insert in text at ⊖ "after having lost the brief authority
"with which he was armed", he could not desist from
"playing fantastic tricks before high heaven."! — We
would omit the contract; but if he did not "make the an-
-swer," this allows dishonour to the northern peer-
-age surcharged with anguish the [his provision for the dis-]
-ablement old man, who had been above forty years depen-
-dant on the national pledge. — In the division or any
disputed question before the Board is never
stated on their minutes, [redacted]
it results that, with the
exception of Sir John Cust, the Manager may be allowed to
have swept off the votes of the Admirals & the Civilians
& the Lunar party were always [redacted] with their good
friend. Now this [redacted] & of very dubious
scientific pretensions, could drive the world before him, in this
way, to a point, which the Author, leaving to more
competent pens

addressing him
by his surname, with this remarkable & laconic intimation

-gitude, was wowing, in all companies, a resolution to insert on
" reading him to the most distant & inhospitable parts of the
" world, before he should receive the rest of the reward." — After ha
-ving ceased to be a Commissioner, ~~it is not doubted to divert such~~
~~a disposition~~ of malevolent misgivings & the meanest perso-
-nal enmity ~~motive~~. ~~His rivalry, it is asserted, soon became~~
~~so great as to induce him that he must keep the Board of Lo~~
~~under the Latches; nor is it less discreditable to the Board~~
~~a majority of at the Board of Longitude by such a scientific cal~~
~~culator to account for their remedies & beyond the statements~~
~~of the Author, the existing Regulations for practical ideas~~, found
that though the Inventor of the Timekeeper compromised
-ferent effects of heat & cold as much as he could; yet as the 12th
of Queen Anne had prescribed a voyage to the Tropics
for the final adjudication of the reward, it followed, that if necessitated to
give the compensation part of his machine a bias to
counteract one climate more than another, his attention must
have been directed to the equinoctial line rather than the arc-
-tic circle. to □526 Here his Majesty reasoning as probably the reader
will, & finding that the ~~President~~ President had insisted on William
Harrison & a Timekeeper being sent to Hudson's Bay, testi
-fied his indignation at so gross a departure from the ori
-ginal implied compact with any person who should under-
-take the discovery of the Longitude. " These people have
" been cruelly treated;" he was heard to say, as if interlocutory
with himself; he then turned towards the ~~Commissioners~~ Lieutenant,
~~Pennington and said~~ — " By God, Harrison, I will see you righted

245

— an expression

~~The protobia name, Datat, but [illegible] no one~~
~~only known under the other Allotypes, which are not~~
~~adaptable to the use, we have planned it~~

low saturnt

in their attention (Dec. [illegible] volente)

The most remote

~~[illegible]~~ which the Author would have felt reluctant to quote, had he ~~[illegible]~~ thought it came under the descrip tion of common, or profane swearing; a ~~[illegible]~~ weakness, which amidst the most ~~[illegible]~~ gross & daggerated perversions of his colloquial intercourse, the ~~[illegible]~~ Cadet, Thomas Peter Pindar, never ~~[illegible]~~ imputed to this in jured monarch: whose well known Christian piety, we should add, sufficiently indicates that the words were not lightly ~~[illegible]~~, but became, ~~[illegible]~~, a pledge, the redemption of which may justly excite the curiosity of the ~~[illegible]~~ public. — This gracious interview, by the encouragement it afforded, was retained in memory to a late period by William Harrison, whose longevity exceeded that of his Father. It showed that the loftiest station in the community, & ~~[illegible]~~ disparity of relative circumstances prevented not "George the good" from participating in the well founded anxiety of Two individuals situated as these were, by having sacri ficed every other prospect in life to that of accomplishing this national desideratum.

The application for a trial of the Timekeeper, at the Observatory in Richmond Park, coinciding with ~~[illegible]~~ his Majesty's desire to appreciate the merits of the machine by his own inspection, he chose it should be of six weeks dura tion, the usual period of a voyage to the West Indies, that having been the standard prescribed by the Act of 1714 which he reprobated so ~~[illegible]~~ sinister a deviation from <u>without the con sent of the Candidate</u>. Nor was he more favourable to the pub lished report of proceedings at Hampstead Hill; since it was made

246 & 247

Indeed his Majesty's [redacted]

-tion of the Earl

schemes of the Manager, [redacted]

& his associate [redacted] Lunar [redacted] Associate,

-jestly unjust to make the Inventor responsible for an uncontrolled examination by a Lunar Candidate, when he distinctly showed the unfitness of the Timekeeper, at that period, for such a test. [redacted] desire to try the one recently completed was of itself presumptive evidence of his dissatisfaction with the conduct of the Commissioners; to whom he was setting an example of probity towards the Claimant, which, under the dominion of [redacted] Morton, they seem to have entirely lost sight of; nor one to have reflected that he had his rights as well as the public.

The Watch having been previously prepared, instead of being entrapped from the Inventor, without any knowledge of the [redacted], as in the former instance, the arrangement was soon made. The King took the key of one of three locks attached to the box in which the machine was kept; the Astronomer, or his representative, had the second, & William Harrison, who attended on behalf of his Father, the third key. This disposition of covers however may be rather considered as intended to constrain the parties to due attendance at the meridian hour, than as meant for a check, which there was little occasion for when all wished well to the result. It had been widely different at Greenwich, where, when judged of by their court acts, neither Lord Morton, nor D. Maskelyne, [redacted] wished any good to a plan that interfered with their own more rational purposes. to O p 144

We are now to suppose the trial at Richmond commenced; the very first day, however, proved so inauspicious that the

to a degree that would have rendered it quite
useless for its intended purpose & of

or Cromwell, because

& aggravations of the colloquial intercourse of

-ger vendor

In opposition to the dogged hours-hours of Walcot, never she was
an articulate utterer of what he pretends to record, the present

Timekeeper was found to have erred [redacted]
The second day it was no better; — but if the reader anticipates
a portion of that fretful impatience which usually characteri-
-zes the spoiled children of affluence, taking into account more
-over the predisposing misfortune, that the subject of these pa-
-ges had been early acknowledged heir apparent to the crown
of a powerful empire, & that we do not expect from princes,
in common, that practical acquaintance with the world by
which an Alfred, a Henri quartre, [redacted] a Frederic 3.
[redacted] conspicuous for an intimate knowledge of mankind, & for
that self-command, in a certain sense, which usually results from
adversity: or from the necessity of appreciating the views & wants
of others continually incultated in private life; — assuredly, if
he expects to find his Majesty, on the awkward discovery just men-
-tioned, deemed it expedient, not without some resentment, to
sacrifice his time & patience to so futile a purpose as this spe-
-cimen of the machine promised, when also the third, & even the
fourth day, led to the same conclusion, he either knew nothing of
George 3.d or his assumptions were mediately derived from the
worthless satirist before mentioned, whose turgid [redacted]
this "friend of mankind, & of merit" like the wares of his own ca-
-[redacted], the public may thus be convinced were "made to sell"
without the least regard to the truth of their edge. [redacted]
Bonaks
Date comity in a regular form, shou that this [redacted] Depart-
-ment, in what may be called the private relations of society,
would have been respected in proportion as it was known. —
Severe as the test described was, the sentiments of the King, or

That most useful aggregate of qualities ~~[illegible]~~ comprised in the Term, steadiness, ~~[illegible]~~ were not apparently shaken by so unlooked for. ~~[illegible]~~ a failure in the anticipated ~~[illegible]~~ correctness of the ~~[illegible]~~ Machine; which he attributed to the mal-practices of some sinister agent, he appeared anxious to discover: or to one of those accidents no human prudence could guard against. — In brief, with a refinement on humanity equally creditable to his head & his heart, this Prince was willing to ascribe the default to any

~~[illegible]~~ Sheer ~~[illegible]~~

were laid aside, condescended

came rather than a defect in the construction
of the [redacted] Timekeeper, which would have reduced
its [redacted] value below the utility of those commonly
made for the Pocket. For he rightly judged,
that the aged mechanician, whose mind
was wrapped up in the success, & consequent
reputation of his discovery, would not
only have Cursived the Disgrace, had so un-
-deserved a reproach been imputed to his
incompetency for what he had undertaken.

The reader, if he has himself cher-
-ished & matured a scheme of magnitude,
on which both Fame & emolument depended;
or if he has witnessed in others that ingen-
-uity, that anxiety, comprehensively dem-
-ted when we repeat that "hope deferred
"maketh the heart sick," may fully
conceive the painful suspense of John
Harrison, as well as his solicitude to
exculpate himself before so unjust an in-
-spector of his deserts, who, [redacted] the insignia of royalty [redacted]
[redacted] to become the active & zealous friend

At this time, William Harrison, who doubtless had conferred on the affair with his Father, suggested that

out; &, in his ardour, instead of directing either of the persons before him to do that office, he hastened him-self to

The

of a humble man of science.

As the Timekeeper had been regula-
-ted, & its correctness ascertained, by the
inventor, before it was sent to Richmond,
the question, of equal interest & difficulty,
was how to account for so [illegible] strange
& ruinous an error, which continued ma-
-nifested on the fourth day. [illegible]
[illegible] The cause must
be attraction. No sooner was this idea started,
but his Majesty, on a sudden recollection,
exclaimed [illegible] he had found it
[illegible] open the door of a clo-
-set in the apartment, where appeared how most
powerful combinations of loadstones,
which it was unaccountably forgotten had been deposi-
-ted there; & the effect of which left so un-
-looked for a disappointment no longer a
mystery ++ 145 — but it was not easy to say
whether the relief to the Father & son, or
[illegible] to the King,
pleasure, was greatest, at so satis-
-factory an explanation.

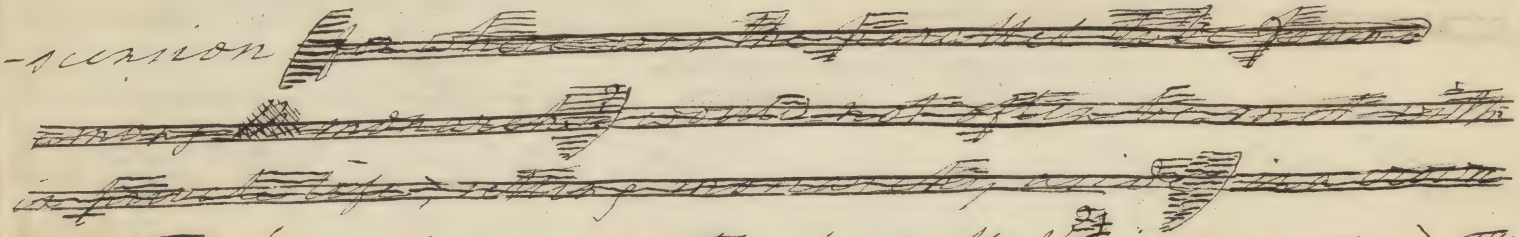
Four days, in this manner, provid-

It would appear that having calculated the regular calls on his time, his Majesty suffered no unnecessary engagement, or impediment, to interfere with his consistent purpose, which showed him

observation, the examination recommenced; and ~~whether with his Majesty's instruments, or his impediments, he was perfectly satisfied~~ ~~I cannot ascertain~~ punctual to the moment-an hour, when the pendulum was to be compared with the astronomical clock, or with the sun; & the scrutiny proceeded as promptly as could be desired, ~~was interrupted~~ for above three weeks, when an unexpected interruption occurred. — William Harrison being in the daily practice of travelling between London & Richmond, injured his arm by some accident, in such a manner, that the wound festering, ~~was~~ incommoded him much, besides the danger of irritating it; but he was not confined to the house, & it might have been suggested, that if he had taken lodgings near Kew park, an easy walk to the observatory would not have prejudiced his recovery. But his Majesty understanding it would ~~was~~ be equally inconvenient to Mr. Harrison to be seperated from his family, or to remove them from town, acquiesced in his Deputy

252

occasion



for where was the parallel in a crowned head?

William Harrison, in a letter to his

representation of the circumstance; save of the month he had already attended as a nullity; & with unexpected severity & candor agreed, that as soon as the invalid found himself capable of renewing his attendance the trial should recommence de novo.

at that period,

62

Father 253 in Eat[illegible]

after

apprizing him of the accident, & consequent injury to his arm, continued as follows; "I informed

nay, of great interest to this most credible

as it is, & might

fortuitous circumstances in the next century? [illegible]

world

O the rest of the paragraph to be given as a note

[illegible]

lowe

-ticulars of dubious

to be treasured in the recollection of those that knew of it; & to

of Lethe, like some play never heard of the first night after it

was brought forward. tu □ 145

" his Majesty of it, who, with his usual goodness, was pleased
" to order our trial to be put off till my health should be suffi-
" -ciently restablished."

We may here pause, to ask — Has the united diligence of a Hawkins & a Boswell, elicited any particular in the life of "our great Lexicographer & moralist" of superior trait in George 3. totally unknown for ever have remained, but for a concurrence of D. Johnson benefited the by accident, it may be said, & not of afore-thought; for, according to Sir John, who expresses some astonishment at the circumstance, he could never be brought to acknowledge any higher motive for writing than money. It was to an occasion when he wanted the needful that we his Rasselas, & had he originally succeeded in procuring a place of £70 a year, in Ireland, he would never have been heard of. It is not too much therefore, to assume, that we are indebted to the physical wants of "the author of the Rambler for the mental entertainment he dispenses; & in this view no disparity can be greater than the respective merits of the sovereign & the subject: yet while par importance, regarding the latter, continues to be diurnally recorded, a conduct which deserved have been immortalized by the pen of him who "wrote for All ages", as Ben Jonson said of his friend, is consigned to the obliterating writers of the late [illegible] ".

The renewed examination, to which it may be superfluous to say, his Majesty attended with the same fortitude as before, proved extremely favourable to the Timekeeper;

The King

consistent to his purpose

deciding the Duration of the Trial: Whether that was a proper, one, or the contrary,

, had nothing to do with the question, after the Candidate

Labour of the prime had staked the The faith of his of his life on

legislature pledge,

with the encouragement & assistance of the Commissioners of

Longitude.

bearing wholly different from that which the Board adopted by the former Direction of the Earl of Morton:

to the representative of John Harrison that

Chap. 14. Chap.

& thence seemed a source of no small satisfaction to the regal astronomer. But as the contract he had imposed on himself was for 6 weeks (the common length of a West-India voyage) & a month had been fruitlessly lost, prior to the completion of that time, it would not be supposed [redacted] that any desire to deviate from the agreement, by extending the period settled. Those who would have reasoned thus, however, knew nothing of George 3.d, than whom no man was more [redacted]; no calculation of the inconvenience to himself (which must have been frequent) was suffered to interfere with the important object he kept in view, & hence, at the expiration of the time in reference, he's found forthwith proposing to extend the 6 weeks to 8. Nay, when the 8 weeks were concluded, this practical philosopher, vindicating the energy of his character, would have those 8 weeks enlarged to 10; in order, as he said, to prevent any cavilling among those who held, with him, that the 12th. of Queen Anne should be considered as [redacted]. — From these ulterior circumstances the original appropriation of 6 weeks to the business reached 14 — more than double what the contract called for, had not this correct philanthropist (& father of his people) [redacted] interpreted it with a [redacted]: & this may recall the emphatical manner in which he declared [redacted] he "would see him righted."

14th It now becomes [redacted] to annihilate a portion of time & space, not for the ludicrous purpose quoted in the Bathos, but to bring William Harrison before the next Board of Longitude, November 28th. 1772, with a memorial from his Father; in

▽ Note The error of the Timekeeper ~~in~~ the 10 weeks was 4½ seconds.

- ces, to do justice to the exemplary & patient investigation ~~to which it is entitled~~ which their Sovereign has devoted to this scientific concern;

to be

which, of course, the attention of the Commissioners was especially requested to a statement of his having made another Time-keeper (with an improvement, which is described) the error of which in a trial of 10 weeks at Richmond, with his Majesty's permission was very considerably within the nearest limits prescribed by the Act of the 12th. of Queen Anne! He might have added, but refrains from it (what was subsequently known) that the King had authorized him to use his name & sanction in the fullest manner in confirmation of the previous opinion he had entertained of his labours. He had precedingly adverted to a trial of Mr. Harrison's Watch, which was also favourable; he therefore humbly hopes these results will be satisfactory — prays them to grant him a certificate &c.

With those who contemplate the passing scene in an abstract view, the general persuasion would be, that the most distinguished authority referred to by the memorialist would lead the way to the object sought; that the deference — the respect which would be paid to the daily personal attendance, which it was known the King had given to this business, would be a rallying point round which jarring opinions might concentrate as to a focus, [illegible]; yet not even a trace of the least concession, that would be expected, is discoverable in the proceedings of these men of education, as they were all presumed, & many of them of learned designations. — It was not the Longitude (for that seemed sent to the Moon the polite preacher scrupled to name) it was a personal affair, viz: John

256 & 257

impressive tautology ~~and~~

Montagu Earl of Sandwich, & Nevil Maskelyne, Astronomer Royal, versus John Harrison & his illustrious supporter. The first of these Commissioners, for reasons that elude research, found himself affronted, by being reminded of his ~~[illegible]~~ assurance; & the other had been stung to the quick by being challenged to produce his Lunar observations made during the voyage to Barbadoes, which, notwithstanding his confident behaviour at that Island, did not bear him out. The rest of the majority at the Board, principally formed of the Professors of abstract sciences, as our mechanics termed them, might be regarded as so many mutes, metaphorically furnished with the leowstring, to strangle & distort any opinions unfavourable to their principals. The power of the Commissioners, as such, being superior to that of the crown, & their proceedings being cognizable only by Parliament, the individuals, alluded to, could indulge their private animosity under a public pretext, as Lord Morton had done before them; yet it can scarcely be supposed they would take their seat of every with so little regard to decency, that in aiming a knock-down blow at the aged Claimant, they were indifferent if it drew blood into the sleeves of his extraordinary friend & adviser. So it is, however, their own minutes testify this reckless audacity; & a copy of them should have been furnished to the British Museum, & other public repositories for the benefit of those writers, or readers, who study the mixed constitution of these kingdoms; for the affair is so insulated it could have happened in no other country on earth: certainly not at the period in question. X

At a meeting &c November 28. 1772 — A memorial from

before the Author, it appears they were not [redacted]

but which in their haste to demolish the [redacted] Memorialiyer's
expectations, notwithstanding the high quarter he was sup-
-ported from, they pass by. Had

Archer that

hostile toward [redacted]

"Mr. John Harrison, of this day's Date, was read, setting forth
"that he has made another Watch, with some improvements
"which had by the King's permission undergone a Trial of ten
"weeks at his Majesty's Observatory at Richmond; at the same
"time enclosing a copy of the result of the said Trial; during
"the whole of which, as he alleges, it went very considerably
"within the nearest limits prescribed by the 12th of Queen Anne,
"& therefore praying (as he hopes the Trial will be satisfactory) to
"have a certificate for the remainder of the reward. And the said
"Mr. Harrison's Son, who was attending was called in, & acquainted
"that the Board do not think fit to make any alteration in the
"mode which they have already fixed upon for the Trials of
"his Father's Timekeeper; and that no regard will be shewn
"to the result of any Trial made of them in any other way.

From a copy of the memorial, ~~It is therefore~~ ~~they~~ correct in making him buy all the Trials on the result of this Trial; for he also refers them to another of Mr. Kendall's Watch, which, ~~as~~ likewise, ~~proved~~ within the nearest limits of the Act, ~~and~~ they confined themselves to declaring, "that they did not think
"fit to make any alteration in the mode of Trial they had fixed
"on," it might have been alleged they were asserting their privi-
-lege to decide, as Commissioners, but the ~~remainder~~ follows is ~~unnecessary~~, redundant, & unpardonably unnecessary, ~~insulting~~ to the applicants gracious Patron; who, whatever difference of opinion might prevail, was manifestly entitled to the most decorous consideration, & respectful deportment from ~~all~~ these public functionaries. The words "no regard will be shown

that they Troubled not themselves about any proceedings he might think proper to adopt, with regard to the Timekeeper; & that — he was welcome to have his labour for his reward, if he chose!

definition,

& should it happen

" to the result of any trial made of them in any other way."
Though nominally addressed to William Harrison, they knew it would be his duty to report as early as he could at Buckingham House; where they might be correctly rendered — That a trial under his Majesty's immediate & assiduous inspection was not worth a Kirkcshaw — That if he had any reliance on the service he might do the Claimant by such a proceeding he might as well have given him a rope to hang himself; —

Such a Demonstration in the 17th century would have been worthy the pens of

— Withers, Prynn & Vickers,

Inspired with ale, or other liquors:

and nearer our time might be thought to savour more of Jacobin insolence than of that loyalty, which yet, the parties concerned, no doubt, like erst the good subjects of Richard Cromwell would have professed in all due form. † X478 Non Montesquieu, who calls England "a republic disguised under the form of a monarchy, & who finds the ruling principle in despotic governments is fear, in monarchies, honour, & in republics virtue, would have reconciled this strange aberration from self-control with his [redacted] the Author knows not; but he thinks it his duty to give the names of those who revelled in "loud misrule" at so novel a Saturnalia; & that their descendants or representatives possess any papers connected with a scene in which the younger Harrison, unlike Cranmer of yore, found no benefit from proximity to the King's locker, They may be induced to favour the enquirer with a commu-

-nication of the contents. They cannot but be desirous of res-
-cuing their progenitor, or kinsman, from the imputation of par-
-ticipating in so gross a failure of that deference, that homage
which all ranks, professions & descriptions, in society are accus-
-tomed to show the occupant of the throne; & which especially
no dispassionate man would have withheld when the inheritor
of that paramount office is such, as here, actuated by motives
which Timon, the misanthrope, could not have impeached: a dif-
-ference of opinion was not a likely cause of umbrage; but it
should not have been signified in such authoritative & offen-
-sive terms.

formed the Lunar party / mustered
is much to be regretted

It cannot be expected of those persons educated for
the Christian ministry that they should divest themselves
of "what composes man" (in the language of Pope) but
from their presumed habit of turning over the pages of the
sacred volume, it is not requiring too much from them,
that they should illustrate by their practice with
more promptitude than the laity, the theory of
good works — that indispensable antitude of deport-
-ment, in all the relations of society, which or the shelves
so often becomes the theme of their seventh day discour-

List of the Commissioners who sat at a Board of Longitude

November 28th 1772.

Right Hon.ble the Earl of Sandwich — 1st Lord of the Admiralty
Sir Charles Hardy — Admiral of the Blue
Rev.d Nevil Maskelyne — Astronomer Royal
— W. Wornsby — Savilian Professor Astr.: Geom.
— D.r Smith — Sav.: Prof.r Geom.: Oxon.:
Rev.d W. Shepherd — Plumian Prof.: Astr.: Cam.
— D.r Waring — Lucasian Prof.: Math.: Cam.:
— D.r Smith — Lowndes's Prof.: Astr.: Cam.:
Hugh Paddison Esqr. — Compt.r: Navy
Philip Stephens Esqr — Secret.y Admiralty

From the above, it appears that the clergymen (who assist four in proportion to the lay commissioners; & it [illegible] that they should have borne out Lord Chesterfield's undesirable defence of their order, who thinks "they are neither the better, nor the worse, for wearing a black coat." [illegible] tone this document wears, seems not a little aggravated by a consideration which they were too stultified by their animosity towards the Astronomer & all his adherents to attend to. — In what volume of the Bodleian, or Ashmole, &c. where, if their bag of books had been equal to that of the peripatetic Apellicon could they have found a parallel

Sess. Yet the Commissioners from Oxford & Cambridge, having all of them the cure of souls (or being supposed to have so) were men of this world, in whom the selfish attribute seemed unchecked by the inward monitor: They forgot that in the same verse from which they exhorted their audience to fear God, they enjoined them to honour the King. Had all the Laymen present swerved from this important obligation (which we do not know) it became the province of their Divines to have remonstrated with ___ to have admonished them of such a failure in their bounden duty; unless they were insensible to the reproach, that they were more influenced by hatred & all unchristian, than by their spiritual calling. It is certain that Hugh Peter, Praise God Barebones, or any other notorious Covenanter, could have done no better than these orthodox Churchmen. The recitation

~~my observation for~~

~~if they are weighed in the common~~

~~scales produced in metaphor~~,

led to the Trait before them? In the whole range of the biography of princes, antient & modern, where was the shadow of a precedent to be pointed out? 547 — Yet instead of ~~this~~ isolated merit, & the moral value of his ~~conduct~~ deportment in this appropriation of his time, being vindicated by these ministers, who might have found it, if they were willing, a proper & edifying theme for pulpit eloquence, it appeared that George 3d. — by having neglected to enquire of the Commissioners of Longitude, if a trial at Richmond, supposing the result favourable, would be allowed to be regular; & not thinking he had to deal with people whose wits were in the Moon in an enlarged sense; had done more mischief ~~than~~ than good service to the cause he had at heart. — Inadvertency & precipitation are out of the question; for they had taken no less than four months to make up their minds to this posture of defiance to "the influence of the crown;" that being the interval between the trial & its rejection: a length of delay, which, as the interest his Majesty took in the subject was no secret, will not be much approved & augured unfavourably to the sequel. Instead of ~~shortening~~ ~~lengthening~~ by example that moderation which they are professionally expected to enjoin their flocks, they might by their rashness have led to a most serious breach of the peace; which indeed, & the circumstance cannot be viewed without suspicion, for its meanness, they relied on the characteristic forbearance of this Prince, to avert such baneful consequences. — What he said, when the report of proceedings, & a copy of the minutes reached him, is not known; — in the absence of evidence we may conclude he improved on the sentiment of Francis

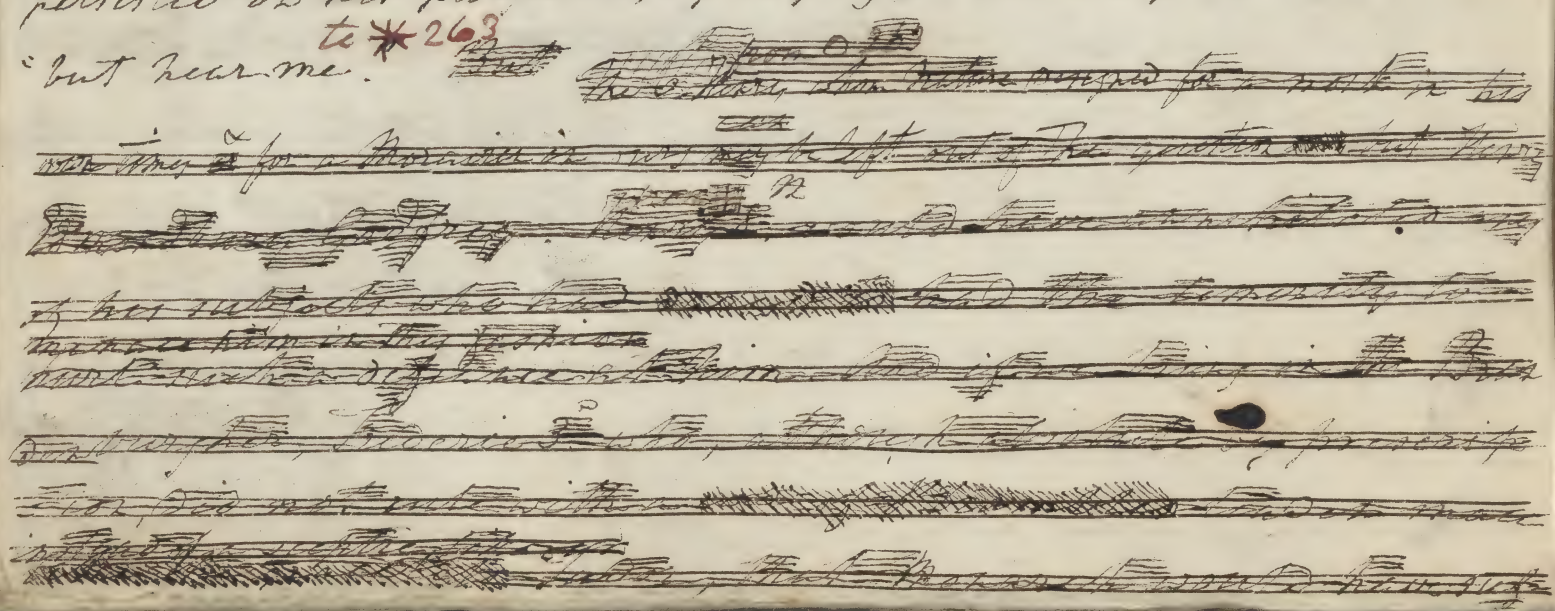
in like manner, if the King of England

Note at ++ It is not generally known, that M. Stuart, the painter, after attending to the lines of the President's face, was of opinion, that had he been born among the aboriginal tribes, he would have been one of the fiercest of the savage race.

In fact, though humbly masked with "an escutcheon of pre-tence," for which Cromwell would have kicked them down stairs. History teaches that these

the Physiognomist; & Themistocles, when struck with a cane by his colleague, in the heat of argument, had presence of mind to recollect that the common cause of Greece was of more importance than a personal quarrel; he therefore persisted in his purpose, by saying, "Strike again, if you will but hear me."

to * 263



1. who thought it became not the King of France to resent affronts that had been offered to the Court of Angoulesme. In those to merge the regal character in that of the astronomer, or mathematician, for the time being, he would, consonant to this idea, acquiesce in placing himself on a level, as such, with these his good (or his bad) subjects. to 527 Here, however, it is evident that, to the casualty of the throne being graced by so placable an ornament to it, was owing that we hear no more of this premeditated indignity (for it has the appearance of being such) shown to "the "Kings most excellent Majesty". beneficial constraints of Temper, are of rare occurrence among distinguished men, Socrates & Washington, were remarkable for practizing self command, even against the Discoveries of if the appeal is to those that wore the diadem, & more especially to our own annals, it becomes difficult to name any monarch in the list, from Egbert the great, excepting Alfred, & (perhaps) Edward 6.th, worthy of being placed with George 3.d At the same elevation in the Temple of honour. to 543 Charles 2.d being unquestionably incensed, on an occasion totally different, & by no means reputable, participating in has never been acquitted of the murder of Sir Edmondbury Godfrey; & the memorable demand made by his indignant father, at the bar of the House of Commons, to 4263 terminated in the Buonoparte of that day being enabled to exclaim, if he could almost without an metaphor, in the cant of his courtiers, "Moab "[England] is my washpot; over Edom [Scotland] will I cast out my "shoe: upon Philistia [Ireland] will I triumph. 599 to + ——

263 from ◇ 600 commissioner, or any other functionary of his Dominions to forget the respect due to the Throne, Mony. the mantle of oblivion might be thrown over it for a season — Had George 3. been as to ○ § 353

Chap 15.

Insert at ◇ § 262 for the five Members who had withdrawn

[illegible]

a copy of this memorial, & underneath, ≡ in the hand-

from * 262 Insert & — let us not omit the Great Captain of the age, who is eminently distinguished by this virtue in the field: but

Note ▭ And certainly, at Waterloo, the absurd conduct of the Colonel commandant of a regiment of Volunteer Cavalry, from Brussels, ▬ which reminds us of Sir John Suckling's campaign, was well calculated to try a gallant soldier's patience.

Chap. 15 A reflection incidentally arising out of the preceding circumstances, to which, in parliamentary language, it may be attached as a rider, is that, any political writer in search of a set off against "Wilkes & Liberty", the popular cry of that period, had the curious document quoted such in his way, would have argued from it, that the privileges of the commonalty could be in no danger, unless, from the licentious use of them, if these public men, the Commissioners of Longitude, to wit, could treat an indirect communication of the Kings sentiments, on a subject of magnitude, with no more ceremony than they might have done a report from the Jockey Club, on some point connected with their mobs, "the Devil" will take the hindmost." — The rashness of their conduct, considering his Majesty would send for the minutes of the Board, is the more extraordinary, as the Author has by him writing of William Harrison, ~~other different~~ is his version of the affair, which, strange to say, is more favourable to the Commissioners than their own denunciation of the royal interference, & as follows — "November 28. 1772. W. Will.m Harrison, in his Table many "Diers, presented the above Memorial; & Lord Sandwich gave him "the following answer. — The Memorial you delivered in has been "read. We do not find it contains any new matter, & the Board "has already told you what they will have done, & they have no "reason to alter their opinion. — To which W. Harrison replied, "my Lord, I am sorry to differ with your Lordship, & did hope "there was new matter; as from the Trial which has been at "Richmond, I have leave to say, his Majesty is well satisfied. "Here Lord Sandwich interrupted him, & said, — Sir,

almost as much in limbo

it seemed

learned graduates

" to be sure, your authority is very great; but if you have
" a mind to try what experiments you will, that is nothing to
" this Board. We have nothing to do with them; the Board has
" told you what they will have done: & they will not alter."

Certainly there never was a better illustration of the common phrase, "The laws of the Medes & Persians alter "not." They could draw a line which was not to be stepped over as authoritatively as Popilius Lena; & George 3. unexpectedly found himself [redacted] as Antiochus. The wand of the "proud republican," or the circle he drew, could not be more restrictively meaning than were the exertive flights of these functionaries: in whom [redacted] impossible [redacted] to separate an [redacted] & degrading stimulus from more correct motives. But the words, "Sir, "to be sure, &c." may be allowed to soften the deformity of the official statement, which has no equivalent salvo, although six [redacted] either were, or might have been, assisting at this edict against all Trials not having their sign manual; and [redacted] Presto, begone —

We are at Buckingham House; where, after the King had perused the regular report of proceedings, which he would

which he would have had in his pocket, & it is

[illegible] expedite

mangre their [illegible]

from ▭ 266 Experience shows (we advance it with diffidence) however, that books though they may powerfully stimulate literary ambition, will neither remedy a deficient ~~merit~~ capacity, nor square with the inclination of those who have ingaged apartments often ▭ 101
in the Castle of Indolence. ⊠ ⊕ 266 ⊠ Hence it need not surprise us, when we learn from the biographers of ⊵ △ 266.

hand [illegible]

do first, the Author conjectures that the junior Harrison show-
-ed him his own statement, ~~for that purpose~~ and
highly creditable to him as a plain, but conscientious citi-
-zen, that he should, by withholding no part of the truth, have
lessened the mischief which these thoughtless men, ~~whatever~~
~~their~~ designations, might have found they were concon-
-cocting, by having thrown away their historical horn-books.
To adhere to the letter of their right, as commissioners, at such
a juncture, without deigning to show common civility to their
liege lord, was hazardous enough; for it was provoking one of
those trials of strength on which the revolutions of kingdoms have
been known to depend. ~~To~~ to make their privileges the vehicle of
a deliberate affront to "the fountain of honour," would have been
generally resented by the public, in behalf of their Sovereign, had
it been bruited; as savouring more of a puritanical contempt
for royalty, among these Ecclesiastics, than of that deference which
their friend, Sully, who so greatly admired a limited constitution
in theory, would have upraided them with the want of. — Henry
4.th as we learn from Sully, was much prejudiced against all par-
-liaments by the conduct of that of France; & George 3.d af-
-ter the treatment he had received, might have resolved,
consistently with the firmness of his character, that let
what would be the consequence, he would never set his
hand to any bill constituting such a commission; over
which he had no control; though he knew & saw the sys-tem-
-atic oppression shown to the venerable Claimant, who
had relied on the public faith, by making his labours in-

Δ

the poet, Gray,

that when at Cambridge, he would sometimes divert himself with the ignorance too often found [illegible] of apart for the cherishers of knowledge, & the courtesy associated with Apollo & the Muses, as well as the genii of sundry sciences; a prosperity in which, either real or nominal, qualifies for the imposing distinction of arts master. — That the University Commissioners of Longitude, notwithstanding their official gowns, would have drawn some curious [illegible] from him who awakened Pindar's rapture or his lyre, is a point we waive; but if these Professors, however designated [illegible] their several degrees, were not men of mediocrity — common place characters, [illegible] to [illegible] in the particular view contemplated. — That morbid satiety which converts whatever is not venerable in life into its scourge & bane, became in him its own punishment, & singularly illustrative of the position, that —

Some are, & must be, greater than the rest;
— but who errs from hence
That such are happier, shocks all common sense.

Note at ++ p. 260 to wealthy citizens of others who expended vast sums in the purchase of books, particularly the works of philosophers, & among others, he procured the original manuscripts of Aristotle. He is said, however, to have been more anxious to possess volumes of systems than to understand them. The literary appetite of this ardent casualty brings to recollection a modern, whose name escapes us, whose singular custom it was at his studies, to lie on the floor, & have the books he wanted around him, within reach: so that with reference to animal life perhaps in its habits, he might be said to wallow in learning. — p. 265

[illegible]

Minor Note at p. 265

Fielding in the sequel of the Bird battle adventure, in Joseph Andrews has a severe stroke at the deficiency of those clergymen who, after leaving college; by associating daily with footmen, or the best (illiterate) sort, & disputing on the pedigree of Miss Slouch, while the horses of Peters' son are totally forgotten, have let their former intellectual armour grow so rusty, for want of use, that he introduces one who did not know there had been such an author as Aristotle. To p. 370 Connected with this almost incredible imputation, it may

that when it be
pivert himself with the ig
thong in pulling
off apart
& by courtesy appreciate
well as the genii of re
in which, either real or
-posing distinction of a
-sity Commissioners of La
official gowns, would ha
from him who awakened "
point we waive; but if
-signated
-ral degrees, were not
characters, to ++ £499

to Geo. 3. in the parlia
— That morbid satiety w
desirable in life with
own punishment, & sing
ation. That —

Some are, & m

— h

That such are

ter of others who appeared books, particularly the ing others, he procured is to be. He is said, how ever to possess the volume them. to □ 499 literary ap- y brings to recollection those irregular lie on the floor, & have in, within reach: so that less particular in its w in keeping. to □ 265

Minor Note to □ 265 fielding adventure, in Joseph Andre iecency of those descriptions ourselves daily with pic shots, & disputing on the the horses of Peleus' for ir former intellectual use, that he introduces a such an author as Aristo to □ 3701 dible imputation, it may